

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 102319

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/CAR:TMACKLIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102319

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED MAY 16, 1974
SENT ACTION PORT OF SPAIN IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102319

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, TD

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH AND
TRINIDAD MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, ERROL
MAHABIR

1. FOLLOWING IS MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION OF MAY 15 MEET-
ING BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH AND TRINIDAD
MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, ERROL MAHABIR.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH WELCOMED MAHABIR TO WASH-
INGTON AND REVIEWED THE APPOINTMENTS ARRANGED FOR HIM.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH STATED THAT HE HAD READ
TRINIDAD PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS' LETTER TO SECRETARY
KISSINGER, EXPLAINING THAT LETTER HAD ARRIVED AFTER
SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE FOR MIDDLE EAST. AFTER HE WAS IN-
FORMED OF LETTER, SECRETARY ASKED AMBASSADOR SCALI AT THE
USUN TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM HIM TO PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS
IN NEW YORK. ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH REVIEWED THE
SECRETARY'S MESSAGE NOTING THAT THE SECRETARY ASKED THE
DEPARTMENT TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS FOR MAHABIR TO ENABLE
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PAGE 02 STATE 102319

HIM TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH AUTHORITIES DIRECTLY

RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS.

3. ALTHOUGH MAHABIR MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY WAS PRIMARILY A COURTESY CALL, THE MINISTER EMPHASIZED CURRENT IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL AVIATION TO GOTT. MAHABIR REITERATED

THAT PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO SECRETARY HAD BEEN PROMPTED BY FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES FACED BY GOTT OWNED BWIA AND REVIEWED ACTIONS US CURRENTLY HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION TO ASSIST US CARRIERS, WHICH PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS FEARS WILL CAUSE FURTHER DECLINE IN BWIA'S SHARE OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN MARKET.

4. MAHABIR HOPED THAT SECRETARY WOULD BE ABLE TO ASSIST GOTT. HE STATED THAT OTHERWISE RESULT WOULD BE INCREASED FRAGMENTATION OF THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR THE US. ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE MANY ASPECTS TO INTERNATIONAL AVIATION PROBLEMS. HE PROMISED TO BRING BWIA'S SITUATION TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY, BUT SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT THE SECRETARY HAS THE AUTHORITY TO RESOLVE CIVIL AVIATION QUESTIONS ON HIS OWN. MAHABIR REPLIED THAT THE TECHNICAL PEOPLE WHO WORK WITH CIVIL AVIATION ARE ONLY ABLE TO SEE THE ECONOMIC FACTORS BUT NOT THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH AGAIN ASSURED MAHABIR THAT THE POLITICAL FACTORS IN SITUATION WOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BEFORE THE USG MAKES FINAL DECISION. HE SAID HE COULD NOT ASSURE MINISTER WHAT FINAL DECISION WOULD BE AS THERE ARE MANY OTHER INTERESTS AT WORK, HOWEVER, THE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WILL BE WEIGHED.

5. ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH THANKED MAHABIR AND AMBASSADOR MCINTYRE FOR COMING. HE STATED THAT TRINIDAD HAD BEEN THE SECOND COUNTRY OUTSIDE OF THE US WHICH HE HAD VISITED AND HE HAD ALWAYS REMEMBERED THAT VISIT FONDLY. MINISTER MAHABIR THANKED THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TAKING THE TIME TO SEEM HIM. GDS UNQUOTE SISCO

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